Investment inspires confidence

THE R6.1 BILLION investment by Toyota, one of the country’s largest car manufacturers, will grow the local economy and create jobs.

Thandeka Ngobese

Car manufacturer Toyota has invested over R6 billion into South Africa by opening a plant to produce the new Hilux and Fortuner models in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. The production of the new models supports more than 4 000 jobs while total employment in the plant exceeds 8 000 jobs.

Speaking at the launch of the locally-produced Toyota models, President Jacob Zuma said the investment demonstrates confidence in South Africa’s economy.

“This is a significant contribution towards dealing with the serious challenge of unemployment in our country. This investment clearly demonstrates the confidence that global automotive producers continue to have in South Africa as an investment destination and the supportive policy environment which we offer.”

The President said government has taken a conscious decision to support the country’s automotive sector.

“The support provided by government through the Department of Trade and Industry (dti) has attracted investments of over R25 billion,” said Zuma.

This investment, he said, is in line with government’s efforts to contribute towards achieving the country’s economic growth targets of 5% and 6% per annum by 2022, and it is set to create thousands of direct and indirect jobs.

Thandeka Ngobese
Vho Thandeka Ngobese

The City of Tshwane is spending millions of rands fighting drug abuse after a continued influx of Mandrax, Nyaope and other drugs.

“We are aware that Tshwane has been labelled the drug capital of South Africa and this led us allocating R50 million to tackle the problem in the 2015/16 financial year,” said Tshwane Executive Mayor Kgosientso Ramokgopa.

With the financial year drawing to a close, the R15 million of that sum not yet spent will be added onto other, yet-to-be-allocated funds to supplement the city’s existing initiatives to combat substance abuse. A percentage will go to rehabilita- tion centres and social welfare organisations.

Ramokgopa said that despite the underspending, he is happy with what the city was able to achieve, adding that more funds will be injected into fighting drugs in the next financial year.

He said the money will assist in empowering ward-based drug action committees, which in turn will encourage the community to conduct sporadic raids in drug distribution hotspots.

The Executive Mayor also announced plans for an awareness campaign aimed at the youth called ‘Tsha Daar’, which means ‘stop it’.

According to Ramokgopa, the ultimate goal is not only to win the fight against drugs but to also have drug users completely rehabilitated.

“Although we are not catching the big fish, we are making arrests and are slowly making progress in this regard,” said Ramokgopa.

Tshwane gets tough on drugs

Nonkululeko Mathebula

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Vho Amukelani Chauke

The Operation Phakisa technical training programme consists of two, three-year courses – Millwright and Coded Welding – run by the Transnet School of Engineering. Each course is made up of three phases. In the first, they familiarise trainees with the equipment and in the final phase, the trainees work practically and are tested accordingly.

The success of the training programmes offered by the school, said Magcaba, is indicated by the increase in entrant numbers each year. “When I first started here five years ago, we had 290 students. Now we have 539 – nearly double that number. It is very rewarding to know that we are helping to bring about positive change.”
Vhhaswa vha Afrika Tshipembe vha ṱoða 'u takuwa vha ḷishumela'
